

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

May 17, 2017

The Honorable Heather Wilson  
Secretary  
United States Air Force  
1400 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Secretary Wilson:

We would first like to congratulate you on your recent confirmation as the Secretary of the United States Air Force. We are confident that the wide breadth of experience and knowledge that you bring to this position, as both a former Member of Congress and captain in the U.S. Air Force, will serve our nation's airmen well. We would further like to extend an invitation for you to visit our region's Air Force assets in the future.

Our districts are home to the Air National Guard's 174<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing, the Eastern Air Defense Sector, and the Air Force Research Laboratory Information Directorate. As you may know, the New York Air National Guard is the largest Air Guard in the country, with five Wings and the Eastern Air Defense Sector distributed across New York. Since the attacks of September 11, 2001, the 174<sup>th</sup> Attack Wing in Syracuse, New York has played an increasingly vital role in our nation's security by operating the MQ-9 Reaper Remotely Piloted Aircraft and training personnel from across active military branches in drone operation and maintenance. Domestically, Guard personnel at the Eastern Air Defense Sector provide the critical air defense picture east of the Mississippi River.

In addition to the Air National Guard, the Air Force Research Laboratory Information Directorate (Rome Lab), headquartered in Rome, New York, is a global leader in advanced cyber research and development. On today's high-tech battlefields, our country's superiority in cyberspace is critical and Rome Lab provides full spectrum support for cyberspace operations, equipping our operators with the agility to disrupt and deny cyber-attacks and the resiliency to fight through and recover from intrusions. Perhaps most impressive is Rome Lab's ability to adapt to emerging challenges. For example, in the arena of counter drone technologies, Rome Lab is poised for significant contributions as it partners with regional assets to address a clear gap in our existing capabilities.

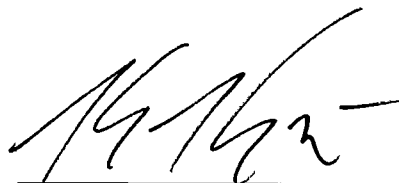
To gain a more personal appreciation for the significant value these installations provide the Air Force, we would like to extend a formal invitation for you to visit. We understand that as Air Force installations, you certainly do not need an invitation from us to visit, but we would be honored to host you. We understand the demands on your schedule, especially as you begin your new position, but if this invitation is of interest, we would be pleased to work with your office to arrange a visit at your convenience.

We thank you in advance for consideration of this request and for all that you have done, and continue to do, in service to our nation. We look forward to working with you in the years ahead.

Sincerely,



Claudia Tenney  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



John Katko  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS